

At this moment in history, extremist rightwing forces have taken unprecedented liberties with the most basic structures of American democracy. The public airways are one of these.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and the absence of meaningful regulation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The shortsighted abuse of the public interest can result in only in the breakdown of democracy and the triumph of the most benighted social dynamics: propaganda, lies, manipulation, ignorance, enforcement of slavish conformity, disappearance of discussion and analysis.

The FCC needs to strengthen media ownership rules and oversight, not weaken them.